



Naval Station Ingleside

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For Immediate Release

Ingleside EOD Sailors Return Safely from Baghdad Deployment



BM1(EOD) Derrick Powell holds his baby girl who he had only seen in photos. Powell and 8 other Sailors from EODMU6 detachment 4 based in Ingleside, Texas, returned from a 6-month deployment to Baghdad on Sunday night, Dec. 18. The Sailors deployed in June, Valerie (pictured here in her father's arms) was born in August. (U.S. Navy Photo by LTJG Sean Robertson)

INGLESIDE, TEXAS -- Most people try to steer clear of Improvised Explosive Devices, especially in war-torn Baghdad.

However, nine EOD Sailors from Ingleside, Texas, sought out and disposed of bombs and weapons caches during their recent deployment to Baghdad.

The nine Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 6 Detachment 4 Sailors returned to South Texas on Sunday, Dec. 18, after spending six months in Baghdad supporting the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, 4th Brigade Combat Team from Fort Stewart, Ga.

These Sailors normally support mine hunting and mine clearance operations, having special training in mine countermeasures unique equipment and procedures to locate, identify, neutralize, recover, exploit and dispose of sea mines, torpedoes and depth charges.

However, they began specialized training for their deployment three months prior to their June departure, according to LT Anthony Kyle, officer in charge of EODMU 6 Det. 4. "It's not unusual for EOD units to support the Army in this capacity." He added the EODMU Two from Little Creek and MU Six detachments have been "flip-flopping" in their deployments in support of the Army in Baghdad.

"In Baghdad, we were split into three teams, each in different camps in central and southern Baghdad," Kyle, a 15-year Navy veteran, stated. Kyle's team was based in central Baghdad. "We were fully integrated with the Army and on call 24-7."

The teams were kept very busy throughout their deployment, responding to nearly 750 incidents involving IEDs, car bombs, unexploded ordnance, weapons caches and post-blast analysis. During their deployment, Iraq was preparing for their landmark elections for the first full-term government following the fall of Saddam Hussein.

"We would respond to the incidents as quickly as possible in a convoy with EOD as the team leader," Kyle added. And, these convoys were attacked once or twice a week. "We completed our missions as quickly as possible," the Kinston, N.C., native stated.

BMC(EOD) Mark Wynalda added, "It was an intense deployment and I'm glad we all made it back." He was a team leader with an Army unit based in southern Baghdad. "We wouldn't know what we would find," he said about responding to incidents when deployed.

"The call would be based on a 'primary' IED, but the secondary IEDs -- the ones that weren't initially found -- were what added to the intensity of our missions," the 17.5 year Navy veteran added.

"This deployment was an opportunity to put into play, in a real-world scenario, what we train for," stated BMCS(EOD) John Bone, a 20-year Navy veteran from Decatur, Ala.. Bone was also a team leader. "We all did our job and came back safely."

BM1(EOD) Derrick Powell, whose first child was born while he was deployed, summed up the joy the Sailors were feeling as they were reunited with their loved ones Sunday. "Yes. We put our lives on the line. But, what's scary is coming home and being a new dad!" he said with tears streaming down his face while he held his daughter for the first time.